

CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

REPORT NEW FACILITIES

1st October 2020

The first thing to report is how helpful and supportive our architect Adrian Ringrose and his colleague Russell Christison have been.

The Cost of the Project:

As the tender was submitted in August 2019 an uplift of 2.5% was applied to the figure quoted by the builder. The total cost of the project is £173,350 incl professional fees, plus VAT. £14,960 of these professional fees have already been paid, leaving £158,390 project costs to be paid.

The cost is shown as net as the VAT element will be recovered by the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. DCMS has confirmed the eligibility percentage for the works undertaken will be 99.45%.

The costs include a contingency element of £12,300. The figure for professional fees is an estimate and will be dependent upon what work is found to be required by the archaeologists.

Grant Applications:

Multiple applications for grants were submitted, most of which were determined in March. This was the worst possible timing as it coincided with the start of the COVID-19 lockdown period. The amount of funds the Trusts had available for distribution was less than anticipated due to the fall in value of investments and they received many late applications for urgent grants needed to get through the crisis.

Seventeen grant giving bodies were looked at. The response was generally disappointing – eleven applications were rejected or not applicable for our project.

Grants have been received/pledged from the following:-

Diocese Oxford New Projects Group Glebe and Buildings Committee £4250

All Churches Trust £3800

Garfield Weston Foundation £15,000

The Laing Family Trusts £4000

Great Brickhill Charity £5000

Total to date = £32,050

A decision from the Joseph Rank Trust is expected in mid-October (a visit was made by the Secretary to the Trustees last week.)

The Funding Position:

An appeal was launched within the village in June - individual members of the Parish were approached via letters from Julia as Warden. £32,270 has been received from 46 contributors.

With the grant and appeal money, the balance in the St Mary's Fund is £163,320.

The Building Work:

Following a Pre-Contract Meeting, the architects, SWB have prepared contract documents. The work started this week and the completion date is 26th February 2021 (20 weeks excluding 2 weeks for Christmas break). Due to late receipt of documentation from AVDC re the type of stone to be used, work is starting on the interior first.